

Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council

Minutes of the 450th Public Meeting held at 19:30 on Tuesday 03 December 2013 in St Andrew Blackadder Church North Berwick

Present:

Cllr S Sinclair Chairman
Cllr J Scott Treasurer
Cllr K Smith Secretary
Cllrs M Baker, E Danks, D Kellock, L Hall, W Macnair, H Smith, I Watson

In Attendance: ELC Cllrs T Day, D Berry and J Goodfellow, local Press, PC Laura Dobbie, A Turgoose

1 (a) Apologies

Cllrs H Flanagan and R Bryson

The Chairman opened the meeting by expressing condolences to those affected by the recent road accident near Dunbar. The Community Council had already written to the school and the contents of the letter had been posted on their website.

2 Minutes of the meeting held on 5th November 2013

The adoption of the Minutes was proposed by Cllr Scott and seconded by Cllr Hall.

3 Matters arising

3.1 *Reactive Speed Sign:* The new sign was expected to be in position for an initial
(3.1) period of six months. The Secretary had queried when the speed sign on Dirleton Avenue would be moved to Tantallon Road. There had been an understanding that the location would change after six months and this was now overdue. ELC Cllr Goodfellow offered to follow this up with ELC Transportation.

3.2 *Scotland's Seas Consultation:* The Chairman had spoken with Tom Brock, Chief
(3.4) Executive of The Scottish Seabird Centre (SSC) and the Community Council had submitted its views, supporting those of the SSC.

3.3 *Community Rail Partnership:* The Chairman reported that this was going ahead and
(3.5) that a Working Party was in place.

3.4 *Seating/ shelter at Abbey Road bus stop:* Cllr Danks asked for an update. ELC Cllr
(15.6) Goodfellow confirmed that he had sent a reminder on 3 December and would look into the matter.

3.5 *Christmas Lights:* The Chairman expressed thanks to all involved in what had been
(5.1) a very successful event.

Cllr Watson reported that, since the switch-on ceremony, there had been a problem with two sections of the lights on the tree. He had remedied one but if a fault was found further up the tree, it could prove necessary to seek help from the original installers. It was agreed that specialist help should be obtained, if necessary.

- 3.6 (14.5) *ATC Cadets Presentation:* The Chairman reported that she had attended this event on 26 November and had been very impressed by the enthusiasm and skills displayed by the cadets.
- 3.7 (14.6) *Police East Lothian Public Consultation:* The Chairman confirmed that a response had been submitted.
- 3.8 (14.8) *Local Democracy Survey:* The Secretary reported that details of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill had been received and had been circulated. The closing date for responses was 24 January 2014.

4 Police Report

PC Laura Dobbie reported as follows –

- 4.1 Crime:
During November a total of 120 calls to the area had been received by police. For the Ward area there had been a total of 12 recorded crimes of which 8 had been solved.

Solvency of crime was currently 67%. Enquiries remained on-going in relation to the unsolved crimes with a number of positive lines of investigation open at this time. A number of unsolved crimes from the previous month had since been solved. This time last year the solvency rate was 43%. It should be noted that this figure also represented crimes from the outlying coastal villages and was not specific to North Berwick.

The crimes reported in November could be expressed as follows:

Theft Shoplifting	2
Theft	2 (1 solved)
Section 165 vehicle seizure	1 (1 solved)
Importation of drugs	1(1 solved)
Drinking alcohol in a public place	1(1 solved)
House breaking with intent to steal	1
Vandalism	1 (1 solved)
Section 5 drink driving	2 (2 solved)
Harassment	1 (1 solved)

- 4.2 Local initiatives:
A number of road traffic initiatives had been underway to highlight road safety. As an objective of Police Scotland to reduce road accidents and ultimately road casualties, focus was being placed on driver safety. Heading into the darker nights, this was as important as ever. Drivers were reminded to wear seatbelts at all times and not to use mobile telephones or hand held devices whilst driving. The initiatives also focus on persons driving without valid insurance or MOT, persons driving under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol and a focus on a safe driving manner for all road users and pedestrians.

The CAPP priorities agreed this month had been set as:

Priority	Actions to be Undertaken	Progress
1. Parking issues at Ware Road/Dirleton Avenue.	Patrols to be conducted by police.	Police
2. Festive Road Checks in relation to road and vehicle safety.	Police will be conducting numerous road checks in the local area.	Police.
3. Keeping people safe through Christmas and New Year festivities.	Police will focus on ensuring the safety of local residents during the festive season.	Police, (patrols and plans already in place).

4.3 *Any other matters:*

- 1 The next CAPP meeting was due to be held on Wednesday 29 January 2014 at 1930 hours. The venue was yet to be decided as North Berwick High School had expressed an interest in hosting the meeting. Minutes would be circulated from the last meeting highlighting the venue, once a decision had been made. The meeting was public and all were welcome and encouraged to attend. The meeting would be advertised on the force web page and on the Police Scotland Twitter site.
- 2 In the event of any questions or queries please contact Colin Banks or Laura Dobbie on 01620 893585, or colin.banks@scotland.pnn.police.uk or laura.dobbie@scotland.pnn.police.uk

4.4 Cllr Baker asked for an update on concerns previously expressed regarding the time it took for Police to attend an incident on 3 November. PC Dobbie reported that the Police computer showed response time to have been 5 minutes.

4.5 ELC Cllr Berry noted that there were still issues regarding noise during deliveries at the NISA store on Lochbridge Road, although this was not a matter for Police involvement.

4.6 PC Dobbie left the meeting at this point.

5 Litter Bins

5.1 The Chairman reported that Stuart Pryde, ELC Principal Amenity Officer, had agreed to supply a compacting litter bin which would, initially, be located outside North Berwick Fry. It would transfer to the Harbour area in the Summer.

6 Area Partnerships

6.1 The Chairman reported that six Community Councillors had attended an explanatory meeting in Haddington.

6.2 Cllr Macnair commented that it was still unclear what would be achieved by the new partnerships. He had concerns about who would be in authority and take responsibility and was unsure as to how it would be implemented. He welcomed a short summary of the key facts.

ELC Cllr Berry said that the Partnership concept had been around for a while. The aim would be to allow areas/ communities to set priorities. ELC Cllr Goodfellow added that the structure was still being developed but there were elements resonant of the old Town Council model. The intention was to devolve decision making and budgets.

In response to Cllr Macnair's concerns about the need for a named contact, ELC Cllr Goodfellow indicated that the plan would be to have a named official through whom North Berwick issues would be channeled.

ELC Cllr Berry reminded Members that ELC Councillors could not direct officials of ELC; they had no executive authority. The new Partnership approach was an attempt to make Councils more responsible for their Communities and this would involve bringing ELC employees on side also.

6.3 Cllr Watson expressed concern that members of the new Partnerships were unelected and could, potentially, represent their own interests.

6.4 The Chairman stated that a summary of the main points had been requested and would be circulated.

6.5 ELC Cllr Berry considered it important that the Community Council give feedback on their concerns. The Chairman said that they had, in the past, expressed misgivings. Cllr Macnair commented that most people who had attended the session from other community councils had expressed concerns.

6.6 The Chairman said she would check if Minutes of the meeting would be produced. ELC Cllr Goodfellow advised that as it was an information meeting, Minutes might not be appropriate but that a Note might be available.

Cllr Macnair reiterated that a concise statement of aims was needed.

6.7 ELC Cllr Goodfellow agreed to take this back for consideration.

7 Community Notice Board

7.1 The Chairman confirmed that the notice board had been delivered to Dunbar for installation during the week commencing 2 December. The adjacent planter had been removed to enable the work to go ahead. The cost of installing the notice board would be £584.40 (incl VAT).

8 Parking Consultation

8.1 ELC Cllr Day had met Peter Forsyth to discuss the content of the consultation. Given the time of year, it was suggested that a launch at the beginning of January 2014 might produce a better response rate. The Community Council supported the

January date. ELC Cllr Day agreed to feedback this response to Peter Forsyth.

8.2 ELC Cllr Berry expressed a view that the consultation should adopt a holistic approach to parking and consider a wide range of parking areas, including schools, particularly at weekends and during the summer holidays, railway parking and at the Sports Centre.

8.3 Cllr Danks raised concerns about parking in areas used by children

Cllr H Smith commented that the suggestions made by ELC Cllr Berry should not be discounted

9 "You pay.... now have your say" Consultation

9.1 The Chairman drew attention to this consultation which was available on the ELC website. Community Councillors could provide individual responses or feedback to the Chairman. The closing date for comments was 18 December.

10 SESplan Consultation

10.1 The Chairman requested that Community Councillors consider this consultation and forward comments to her. The closing date for comments was 23 December.

10.2 Cllr Hall requested that the Chairman email details of the consultation to her.

10.3 Cllr Scott asked for information regarding rumours that the proposed Blindwells development had been stopped. ELC Cllrs Berry, Day and Goodfellow were unaware of any change in the position which was best described as being stalled.

11 Planning Matters

11.1 The following new applications were viewed, discussed and commented on, where appropriate –

- *Marine Lodge, 21A Westgate* – alterations to garage and erection of external stairs with handrails
- *15 Keppel Road* – erection of carport and fencing
- *5 Glenorchy Road* – formation of dormer
- *36 Lady Jane Gardens* – extension to house
- *3 Duncan Court* – extension to house
- *'Elanora' & adjacent agricultural land, Dirleton Road* – erection of 1 house and change of use of agricultural land to form domestic garden and associated works
- *27 St Baldred's Road* – first floor extension to house, formation of balcony and dormer – further enquiries would be made as to what was proposed.
- *Milsey Lodge, Redholm Park, Greenheads Road* – extension to house

11.2 *Links Lodge, Links Road* – it was noted that consent had been granted for the erection of a modern replacement house on the site of Links Lodge.

12 Reports from Groups and Societies

12.1 *Fireworks display*

Cllr Baker commented on the very positive feedback regarding this year's event.

12.2 *Coastal Communities Museum*

Cllr Watson confirmed that the Museum would be open from 11am to 4pm on

Saturdays and Sundays until March 2014. Cllr Kellock welcomed the opening which reflected a lot of hard work.

12.3 *Youth activities*

ELC Cllr Berry commented that the good behaviour of the young people in the town should be commended. The Community Council agreed that this was a positive message.

12.4 *Environment Trust*

Cllr H Smith reported that she had recently attended a meeting of the Environment Trust. The Trust, who wish to develop a plan for North Berwick, want to be involved with the Area Partnership.

12.5 *Beach erosion*

Cllr H Smith raised the question of erosion of the beach and asked if any surveys had been undertaken.

ELC Cllr Berry explained that, at one time, there had been an accumulation of sand near the old swimming pool and action had been necessary to remove it. It had been the case that sand had been removed and went to the Glen Golf Course. He expressed his view that it was a matter of balance and suggested that the issue may arise in discussions within the Parking Consultation.

12.6 *Food Banks*

Cllr H Smith had attended a meeting at the Community Centre and reported on a new initiative from the Brownies regarding Food Banks. The Brownies had suggested that food donations of tins or items with a long life could be left at the Community Centre for collection. The Community Council welcomed this initiative.

12.7 *Carol Singing*

The Chairman drew attention to the Carol Singing in the Lodge Grounds on Friday 6 December, starting at 6.30pm.

12.8 *North Berwick in Bloom AGM*

The Chairman reminded Councillors of the AGM of NB in Bloom on Tuesday 10 December at 7.30pm in the Hope Rooms. All Community Councillors were invited to come along to hear about the work of the volunteers.

12.9 *Christmas Lights Switch On*

Cllr Scott reported that feedback on the event had been very positive. People had enjoyed the experience and 293 presents had been distributed.

13 Training Courses - report (deferred from last meeting)

13.1 Cllr H Smith had attended one course. Two courses had been cancelled due to lack of support. Another two courses were planned for January and March 2014.

Cllr H Smith gave a strong endorsement of the training which she considered relevant for Community Councils. The training content had included self-reflection, evaluation of community groups, goal setting, and performance measurement. She encouraged other Community Councillors to attend.

14 Correspondence

14.1 *Store at 2 Melbourne Road*

The Secretary reported that she had received a letter from the Project Manager, Estates and Asset Management of ELC which indicated that VAT would be due on the rental for the store at 2, Melbourne Road from 1 January 2014.

The Treasurer agreed to investigate this further.

14.2 *Application for a variation of premises licence*

The Secretary had received notice of an application for major variations to the premises licence in respect of Bunney's, formerly The Fisherman's Kitchen, 96 High Street which were to include in their operating plan *inter alia* an extension of the opening hours to 9 pm on Sundays to Thursdays and to 12 midnight on Fridays and Saturdays, the playing of recorded music at all times and live performances at certain events.

Concerns were expressed about the opening hours and playing of music.

The Secretary undertook to check the opening hours of nearby licensed restaurants and then write to the Licensing Board with the Community Council's concerns.

14.3 *Application for variation of premises licence - 37-39 Quality Street*

The Secretary reported that only the Community Council had commented on the variation regarding 37-39 Quality Street. The application was approved on 28 November 2013.

14.4 *Posters*

The Secretary had received an email complaining that posters advertising local events, including any string and cable ties, should be removed immediately after the event. It was agreed that a reminder to remove posters and any string or cable ties, would be placed in the next Newsletter. The Press could also promote this approach. It was noted that ELC notices were often in place beyond their dates.

14.5 *Invitations*

An invitation had been received from ELTRP to attend an event on 12 December, 7pm- 10pm at Ravelston House, Musselburgh. Cost was £3 and all were welcome.

An invitation had been received from the Provost to attend a reception at the Town House on 11 December at 7pm. Unfortunately, due to other commitments no one was available to attend. The Secretary would send apologies on behalf of the Community Council

14.6 *Nominations for Royal Garden Party 2014*

The Secretary had received a letter from the Interim Lord Lieutenant asking the Community Council to nominate those thought to be deserving and suitable for an invitation to the Queen's Garden Party. A number of suggestions were made and these nominations would be taken forward by the Secretary.

14.7 *Ferrygate Housing proposal.*

The Chairman reported that a communication had been received from Shepherd & Wedderburn, Solicitors for Miller Homes Ltd, who had been refused planning permission for the proposed development at Ferrygate. An Appeal had now been lodged in the Court of Session. If the Appeal was accepted, a New Reporter would be appointed to reconsider the proposal.

To allay any concerns from individuals who had submitted responses to the building proposals and who had received notice of the appeal, it was agreed that the Community Council should write to them advising that they should not respond to the communication. If the appeal was allowed and a new Reporter appointed, they could make their views known again at that point.

15 Any Other Competent Business

15.1 *Illegal parking*

Cllr Hall queried the legality of long stay parking by an empty campervan in the SSC car park, adjacent to the Lodge Grounds. ELC Cllrs Berry and Goodfellow advised that there was no offence, if the vehicle was taxed and insured.

15.2 *Interim Minute Secretary*

Cllr Scott, Treasurer, proposed that an honorarium be given to Cllr K Smith who had acted as Minute Secretary for the past seven months. The Community Council expressed their appreciation and agreed to the proposal.

16 Date of next meeting: 19.30 on Tuesday 7 January 2014 in St Andrew Blackadder Church.